

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4738

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AF/W FOR AMBASSADOR BYRNE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ML PFOR

SUBJECT: U.S.-MALIAN RELATIONS-A NEW LOOK

1. WE HAVE GIVEN SOME THOUGHT TO QTE NEW LOOK END QTE IN U.S.-MALIAN RELATION SYMBOLIZED BY YOUR ARRIVAL IN BAMAKO. SINCE THE PUERTO RICAN ISSUE WILL APPARENTLY NOT BE RAISED IN C-24 AT U.N., WE DO NOT KNOW HOW MALIANS WOULD HAVE VOTED. I PERSONALLY BELIEVE THEY WOULD HAVE ABSTAINED IN SOME PERHAPS NOVEL WAY. BE THAT AS IT MAY, IT IS NOW TIME FOR GESTURES OF FRIENDSHIP AND COMMITMENT.

2. THE PRESIDENT HAS JUST INDICATED HIS DESIRE TO ATTEND THE AIDSAT DEMONSTRATION SEPTEMBER 27 WHICH PROMISES TO BE THE MAJOR U.S.-MALIAN EVENT THIS YEAR. BUILDING ON THAT IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE WHEN YOU ARRIVE TO TALK TO THE PRESIDENT IN TERMS OF THE \$110 MILLION WORTH OF USAID ACTIVITIES WE ARE WORKING ON IN MALI. THIS FIGURE INCLUDES PRESENT AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES AND DOES NOT INCLUDE THE \$36 MILLION IN DROUGHT AID PREVIOUSLY FURNISHED.

3. AFTER PRESENTING CREDENTIALS, YOUR CALLS AND
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FOLLOW-UP LUNCHEONS WITH MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE

AND CIVILIAN MINISTERS WILL PROVIDE MORE HIGH-LEVEL CONTACT THAN WE HAVE ENJOYED IN A LONG TIME. YOU WILL BE WELCOMED WITH ENTHUSIASM, PARTICULARLY AS YOU DISCUSS AID IN MALI.

4. A MODEST RESUMPTION OF THE FMS PROGRAM WOULD ALSO BE IN ORDER. WE BELIEVE THAT THE SO-CALLED BORDER WAR WITH UPPER VOLTA IS OVER, ALTHOUGH EMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU MAY STILL HAVE RESERVATIONS. THE PUERTO RICAN ISSUE IS NOW QUIESCENT AND ASSUMING AMBASSADOR KANTE BEHAVES HIMSELF AT THE U.N., YOU MIGHT WISH TO LAY THE GROUNDWORK IN WASHINGTON FOR A RESUMPTION OF FMS TO MALI. I DO NOT THINK THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROVISIONS OF THE RECENTLY ENACTED SECURITY ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION WOULD APPLY TO MALI. FIRST ON THE LIST OF EQUIPMENT SHOULD BE AN ENGLISH LANGUAGE LABORATORY FOR THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. THIS NON-LETHAL EQUIPMENT IS NOT ONLY IMPORTANT IN ITS OWN RIGHT BUT WOULD BE A SYMBOL OF A RESUMPTION OF TIES WITH THE MALIAN MILITARY. THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INCREASED CONTACTS ARE OBVIOUS.

5. YOUR MILITARY ATTACHE LT. COL. HUGHES, USMC, WILL BE MAKING HIS INITIAL VISIT TO MALI SEPTEMBER 28 AND WE SHOULD HAVE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER COOPERATION WITH THE MALIAN MILITARY.

6. LOOMING FAR IN THE FUTURE IS THE POSSIBILITY OF A STATE VISIT TO WASHINGTON BY PRESIDENT TRAORE. HE HAS SAID THAT HE WANTED TO MAKE SUCH A VISIT TO THANK THE U.S. FOR ITS DROUGHT RELIEF AID, BUT RELATIONS AT THE TIME DID NOT SUPPORT SUCH A GESTURE. A STATE VISIT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE IN TWO-THREE YEARS. IN THE SHORT-TERM, SAY ONE YEAR, A MEETING AT THE U.N. BETWEEN FOREIGN MINISTER CHARLES SAMBA CISSOKHO AND THE SECRETARY COULD BE USEFUL. A VISIT HERE BY A HIGH-RANKING STATE OFFICIAL WOULD BE HELPFUL ANY TIME.

7. ON THE ECONOMIC SIDE, UTAH INTERNATIONAL HAS JUST INFORMED US THAT THE RESULTS OF A JULY VISIT NOW WARRANT SENDING A TEAM OF GEOLOGISTS TO MALI FROM OCTOBER 15-DECEMBER 15. THE MALIANS WOULD BE DELIGHTED IF UTAH

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DISCOVERED URANIUM OR ANY OTHER EXPLOITABLE MINERAL AND WOULD WELCOME U.S. INVESTMENT.

8. OUR CULTURAL AND INFORMATIONAL PROGRAMS ARE SOLIDLY BASED AND REQUIRE ONLY AN OCCASIONAL ASSIST FROM THE TOP.

9. ADMINISTRATION WILL BE SUBJECT OF SEPTAL.

10. AS YOU PREPARE TO LEAVE WASHINGTON, IT IS CLEAR THAT
THE SIGNS ARE PROPITIOUS FOR AN IMPROVEMENT IN U.S.-
MALIAN RELATIONS. THE MALIANS LOOK FOR IT, WARILY,
AND I THINK WE ARE READY.

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